



HERE-TURI-KŌKA | AUGUST 2023

Kua pūmahana te whenua, me ngā ōtaota, me ngā rākau. The earth has now acquired warmth, as also have herbage and trees.

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TE PŪRONGO O NGĀ POU MATARUA CO-DIRECTORS UPDATE

This month the NPM whānau were thrilled to celebrate the news that our NPM Ruānuku Emeritus Professor Ngahua Te Awekotuku (Te Arawa, Tūhoe, Ngāpuhi, Waikato) was elected as a Companion of the Royal Society Te Apārangi. The award of Companion—Ngā Takahoa a Te Apārangi - recognises outstanding leadership or sustained contributions to promoting and advancing science, technology, or the humanities in Aotearoa. As this article in Stuff notes, Ngahua has a long list of boundary-breaking achievements – including being the first wahine Māori to earn a PhD from a New Zealand university, awarded in Tamatekapua in 1981. Among her many achievements, Ngahua developed and taught the first tertiary sector Māori and Pacific Art History programme to a PhD level, and helped to establish Women's Studies as an academic discipline at Waikato and Auckland universities. We are proud of Ngahua's visionary leadership and enduring contribution to Te Ao Māori and the humanities in Aotearoa. E te Māreikura, poho kereu kaota a Ngā Pae mō tēnei whakamānawa kua uwhia ki runga i a koe, ka tika. Tū mai rā hei hoi pūmanawa mō ngā whakareanga wāhine hāere ake nei, hāere ake nei.



Also, don't forget to register for the upcoming International Indigenous Climate Change Research Summit. Early bird registrations will open shortly. Keep an eye on the ICCRS website for updates on registrations and our exciting lineup of local and international keynote speakers.

Ngā Pou Matarua | Co-Directors
• Professor Tahu Kukutai
• Professor Linda Waimarie Nikora

KAUPAPA MATUA : CLIMATE HEALTH

COMMUNITIES USING MĀTAURANGA FOR CLIMATE HEALTH SOLUTIONS

Cindy Simpkins-McQuade

University of Otago Postdoctoral Research Fellow Dr Ken Talapa (Ngāti Porou, Rongowhakaata, Te Whānau-a-Apānuhi) is optimistic about how mātauranga can be used to improve climate health and adaptation. Ken and his team were the recipients of a 2022 NPM Matakiteanga grant and their project explored the positioning and application of mātauranga as a counter-narrative to Western climate change responses.

In terms of climate health and adaptation, he says mātauranga provides solutions from knowledge which already exists – Ka māui ka mua – looking to the past to inform the future.

"We are really seeing a lot of communities using mātauranga in taiao initiatives, whether it is around re-planting Papatūānuku, monitoring our waterways, riparian planting, water testing, or monitoring taku tai moana for the silt and runoff from our awa that have been overloaded. There are a lot of mātauranga driven initiatives happening which are a repositioning of the term 'climate change' and coming at it from a Te Ao Māori perspective". Ken believes Western science and mātauranga can be used together to solve issues in a holistic approach rather than choosing one or the other.

He says adaptation to environment challenges is something tūpuna had previously accepted and the same response might be required today. "As a result of Cyclones Hale and Gabrielle there is talk of having to move marae that are vulnerable to the effects of extreme weather events. This is not a new concept as we know some of our tūpuna have faced these challenges before."

"Things are swinging out of balance which we are observing through our environmental tohu. As tangata whenua, our challenge is to make sense of terms like 'climate change' and then use it as a leverage for us to approach it from a Te Ao Māori perspective to help solve issues."

Ken and Research Fellow Summer Wright interviewed a variety of ringa raua and pou rangahau throughout the country to see who is working in the mātauranga space. "What we were interested in was who was doing what, where was it being used and what are the contributions to climate health and adaptation. He says there are lots of interesting examples of different mātauranga initiatives, however it is important for tangata whenua to maintain control of how they work, how mātauranga is applied and evaluated. "Once we lose control of that it becomes something else."

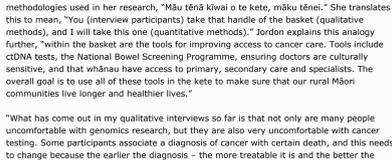
Internationally there is widespread recognition that Indigenous knowledge has the answers to climate change, however Kens says there are few examples of where it is actually being enabled. The next phase of his research is to conduct a policy analysis to determine how well government ministries, and local governments such as regional councils are supporting the application of mātauranga in the taiao space. "We need to determine what it means when our terms like mātauranga are captured by the mainstream. We need to see whether they are actually enabling the application of mātauranga in taiao initiatives or if all they are offering is consultation."

He says Māori need to look at where mātauranga can be implemented to support our relationships to our places of belonging in ways we can uphold the integrity of our taiao. "Part of this includes being aware whether the adoption of concepts like mātauranga into government policies is strengthening its place and practice, or otherwise."

The results of his Matakiteanga project indicate communities are increasingly drawing on Indigenous, interconnected ways of thinking about nature. He says mātauranga can make a valuable contribution towards increasing climate health and adaptation, but first we need to move away from the underlying framework that caused climate change if we want to find solutions that work.

He says the dominant responses to climate change in Aotearoa are largely driven by colonial norms and values and informed by scientific evidence that doesn't question them. They reflect the same philosophical and ideological frameworks that underpin the colonial, capitalist systems which have been responsible for driving the ecological crises we currently face, including climate change. In Aotearoa the dominant responses to climate change are largely driven by the vested interests of corporations. Unless we rebalance this approach by reconnecting humanity to nature, then we are using the same thinking to try to get us out of this mess that created the mess."

RANGAHAU | RESEARCH



RESEARCHER AIMING FOR MORE ACCESSIBLE CANCER TREATMENT

By Cindy Simpkins-McQuade

PhD student Jordan Lima was born at Mahana Station, a sheep farm in Whāngārā in rural Te Tai Rāwhiti, far from the nearest hospital. A quarter century later and Jordan can be found in her lab most days, doing research that aims to make cancer care more accessible to Māori living rurally.

Jordan is in the final 10-months of her PhD at Te Aho Matatu – the Centre for Translational Cancer Research at the University of Otago. Her PhD study has two main components. The first involves working on circulating tumour DNA (ctDNA) which can be found in blood samples. Liquid biopsy based on ctDNA analysis is a reliable, minimally invasive method (compared to tissue biopsy) of detecting whether someone has cancer. Jordan is looking at how these tests can improve access to early cancer diagnosis in rural Ngāti Porou communities – the communities she is from. The other component of her research focuses on the experiences of Ngāti Porou cancer patients, their whānau and their cancer care providers. Jordan hopes that their experiences will inform culturally appropriate clinical protocols for the ctDNA blood tests to improve early diagnosis of bowel cancer and improve surveillance during and after cancer treatment. She is being supported by supervisors NPM senior researcher Associate Professor Karyn Paringatai and Professor Parry Guilford.

Jordan uses a whakatauki as a framework to describe the quantitative and qualitative methodologies used in her research, "Māu tēnei kiwai o te kete, māku tēnei." She translates this to mean, "You (interview participants) take that handle of the basket (qualitative methods), and I will take this one (quantitative methods)." Jordan explains this analogy further, "within the basket are the tools for improving access to cancer care. Tools include ctDNA tests, the National Bowel Screening Programme, ensuring doctors are culturally sensitive, and that whānau have access to primary, secondary care and specialists. The overall goal is to use all of these tools in the kete to make sure that our rural Māori communities live longer and healthier lives."

"What has come out in my qualitative interviews so far is that not only are many people uncomfortable with genomics research, but they are also very uncomfortable with cancer testing. Some patients associate a diagnosis of cancer with certain death, and this needs to change because the earlier the diagnosis – the more treatable it is and the better the outcome. So, my qualitative research has shown we need to do a lot of education about cancer and about DNA to make people more comfortable with having tests, because it is a waste of effort developing a test in the lab if people are not comfortable taking it out in the real world."

Jordan's research will address not only people's worries about being tested for cancer, but also how rural Māori can better access culturally appropriate services without the need for them to travel hours to a testing centre or an oncology unit.

Earlier this year, Jordan was in Melbourne presenting her research at the International Congress of Genetics. During her presentation she explained her project using the kete analogy and was pleasantly surprised by the positive reception of scientists who are more familiar with quantitative frameworks. "The perspectives towards qualitative research and its importance alongside quantitative research seems to be shifting. The audience at the congress just hadn't seen many examples of how it had worked before. So, my use of the kete analogy, showing that ctDNA tests are but one of many tools for improving access to cancer care for rural Māori – then how quantitative and qualitative methods can work together as handles to carry the kete – worked well. They understood the whakatauki and were positive towards how the two methods of research can be used together."

While at the congress Jordan had the chance to meet other Indigenous researchers working in the same area. "I also really enjoyed meeting other Indigenous genetics researchers. While we have very different cultures, we all have an experience of colonisation, we feel strong connections to our environment and communities, and we all work towards improving the health and wellbeing of our people."

RANGAHAU | KŌRERO WITH NPM RESEARCHERS

Each month we feature one of our NPM researchers. This month we talked with Dr Maree Sheehan, the leader of the Matakiteanga research project 'Mōtū Marae and Tapuwahine A12 whenua landblocks: The seen and the unseen – Exploring whenua and waterways ecosystems through sonic mapping and Lidar scanning technologies.'

Ko wai tō ingoa, nō whea koe?

Ko Maree Sheehan taku ingoa. Nō Ngāti Maniapoto, Waikato, Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Ngāti Tahu-Ngāti Whānau ahu.



What are your areas of research? Audio portraiture, sonic practices, sonic ecologies, mātauranga Māori, creative artistic practice.

What excites you about your work? My research examines and explores ways in which I can contribute to mātauranga Māori through creative artistic sonic practices. The engagement in this type of research and artistic practice is grounded in connection to Te Ao Māori and my identity, more so connection to whakapapa and whānau. My PhD "The sound of identity - interpreting the multi-dimensionality of wāhine Māori through audio portraiture" focuses on the honouring and affirmation of wāhine Māori voices and the assertion of mana wāhine within a Kaupapa Māori framework. It contributes to artistic interpretations grounded in Māori ways of knowing, because the research explores specifically how audio-portraiture might capture and embody the essence of Māori women through sound, by responding to multiple dimensions of their identity.

Our NPM vision is flourishing Māori futures. What does that mean for you? To me just like NPM, it means enhancing opportunities for excellent Māori researchers and Māori-led research to come together to build networks and foundations so that Māori can flourish in all aspects of our culture: Te reo, tikanga and mātauranga in the present and for the future of our tamānaki and mokopuna.

Lastly, can you tell us something surprising about you? I have four mokopuna.

TE TIRA TAKIMANO | OUR PARTNERS

NPM are collaborating with our TTT partners to celebrate the taonga and kaitiaki at Tāmaki Paenga Hira Auckland War Memorial Museum. This will be a regular section of our e-pānuī where we share stories of our taonga and our communities.



CELEBRATING SUCCESS

Ko te manū e kai ana i te miro, nōnā te ngahere Ko te manū e kai ana i te mātauranga, nōnā te ao

We celebrate the successes of two kaimahi at one of our 22 institutional partners, Tāmaki Paenga Hira | Auckland War Memorial Museum.



Dr Kahutoi Te Kanawa

Kahutoi Te Kanawa (Ngāti Maniapoto, Waikato-Tainui, Ngāti Kinohaku, Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Ngāti Rora, Ngāti Apakura, Uekaha) is a Kairaranga and Curator. In April of this year Kahutoi received her Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree in Tikanga Māori Creative Practice from the University of Waikato. It was a moment that acknowledged years of hard work and in honour of her tupuna who came before her, and that helped guide her journey. Her PhD thesis, 'Taonga Tuku iho: Intergenerational knowledge transfer of raranga and whātu, focused on the importance of Indigenous knowledge practices and how it is transferred between the generations. Kahutoi was the recipient of the 2021 Tohu Puaki - Doctoral Completion Scholarship provided by NPM. Kei runga noa atu e Kahutoi!



Te Arepa Morehu (Ngāti Whānau, Ngāpuhi) joined Tāmaki Paenga Hira as Curator Māori in July 2023. Ka tū au ki te kei o tōku waka tapu, ko Māhuhu-ki-te-rangi, e whakātere atu ki Tāmaki Herenga Waka, Tāmaki Herenga Waka, te nohoanga o ōku tūpuna.

"Ko Te Arepa tōku ingoa, I am extremely fortunate to be in a space where I can learn, advise and lead in the aspects of culture and heritage I am extremely passionate about." Te Arepa has a background in multiple sectors. For many years he has been leaning into taha Māori to navigate through the complexities that come with working for large corporations, guiding many people to a greater understanding of te ao Māori. "As Tumuaki Māori of Tāmaki Paenga Hira I see an opportunity – this time for myself – to gain a greater understanding of an institution that protects taonga Māori, and how kaupapa Māori is able to flourish in such an environment," he says. "Kaupapa Māori holds significant importance for museums as it can provide a framework for understanding and representing Indigenous perspectives, knowledge, and cultural heritage. It challenges dominant narratives that have historically marginalised, rather than promoted/served, Indigenous cultures. Museums can serve as custodians of Māori taonga and support the transmission of cultural knowledge to future generations in an authentic manner."

"By embracing kaupapa Māori, Tāmaki Paenga Hira can create more meaningful and respectful experiences for both Māori communities and non-Māori visitors, fostering a greater understanding and appreciation of Māori culture within society. These aspirations are for generations to come ahakoa ko wai, ahakoa nō hea."

NGĀ MANAAKITANGA | OPPORTUNITIES

CALL FOR PHD SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

The NPM Futures Programme supports promising Māori students as a means to growing an expert and capable Māori researcher workforce for Aotearoa.

Eligibility All applicants must be high achieving Māori PhD Doctoral students, who are currently enrolled, or intend to enrol, at an NPM tertiary education partner institution to undertake PhD doctoral research. Their research must align with the NPM Matakiteanga research framework.

Scholarship Value and Duration The scholarship grant includes a stipend of \$33,000 per annum plus \$7,500 for tuition fees. The award is for a two-year duration and completion date is expected to be by or before 1st January 2026. We expect to support a total of 10 PhD scholarship awards in this round.

Application deadline: 5pm, Monday, October 2, 2023. For more information, including the scholarship application forms and scholarship regulations, please see our web page: https://www.maramatanga.co.nz/funding-opportunity/ghd-scholarships

CALL FOR SUMMER INTERN APPLICATIONS 21 PROJECTS - APPLICATION DEADLINE EXTENDED

Term: The internship programme will run over 10 weeks, 4 Dec 2023 – 19 Feb 2024 Value: \$7,500 NZD per award Application deadline: Extended to 5pm, Monday 14 September For more detailed information about each project and how to apply see: https://www.maramatanga.co.nz/funding-opportunity/internship-application. For all enquiries, please contact: Dr Kiri Edge, Position: Rangahau Email: research@maramatanga.ac.nz Phone: (09) 923 6117

HUI, WEBINARS, CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, WEBINARS, EXHIBITIONS



EARLY-BIRD REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN!! Indigenous people throughout the world are engaged in finding solutions in response to climate change to ensure the survival of our planet, places and people. ICCRS is an International Indigenous-led online gathering designed to amplify Indigenous voices, ideas and solutions.

Key Dates 23 Sep.: Presenters notified 29 Sep.: Pre-records and/or papers due 13 Oct.: Presenter registration deadline and early-bird registration close 13-17 Nov.: Summit takes place Early-bird registrations: https://www.iccrs.ac.nz/iccrs-registration/

Election 2023 Shaping tomorrow today: research, innovation and Aotearoa's future What: Hear what politicians have to say about the research landscape Who: Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall, Hon Judith Collins, Dr Paarmet Parmar, Dr Lawrence Xu-Nan When: 11am - 12.30pm, Thursday 14 September Where: The University of Auckland Science Centre Floor Register: https://2023shapingtomorrowtoday.eventbrite.co.nz

Kāti rā ngā kōrero mō tēnei wā,

Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga | New Zealand's Māori Centre of Research Excellence

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